

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (currently amended) The method of claim 13 wherein said comparing comprises calculating an expression ratio of the expression measurement of said gene over the expression measurement of said maintenance genes.

Claim 13 (currently amended) A method for ~~comparing~~ determining the expression of a gene in a plurality of biological samples comprising:

measuring the expression of said gene in said plurality of samples and simultaneously measuring the expression of at least ~~three~~ ten maintenance genes selected from the group consisting of the genes encoding: Profilin, Thymosin beta-4 mRNA, Prothymosin alpha [[, ]] mRNA (ProT-alpha), Actin depolymerizing factor, Adducin gamma subunit, Myosin regulatory light chain, Non-muscle type cofilin, Myeloid cell differentiation protein (MCL1), ATP synthase subunit c encoded by P1, ATP synthase alpha subunit, Vacuolar ATP synthase subunit AC45 precursor, ATP synthase gamma-subunit (L-type), ATP synthase beta subunit, Mitochondrial ATPase coupling factor 6 subunit (ATP5A), NaK-ATPase beta-1 subunit, Sodium/potassium-transporting ATPase beta-3 subunit, H<sup>+</sup>-ATP synthase subunit b, ATP-citrate lyase, ~~ATP-synthase~~, Vacuolar-type H<sup>(+)</sup>-ATPase 115 kDa subunit, AQP3 aquaporine 3 (water channel), and Voltage-dependent anion channel isoform 1 (VDAC); and comparing said expression of said gene in said plurality of samples using the expression of said at least ~~three~~ ten maintenance genes as a control to normalize the expression of said gene in said plurality of samples.